



## **BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY**

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# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

**of**

**Medical Officer of Health  
and Public Health Inspector**

**in respect of the year 1961 for the  
Borough of Bewdley in the  
County of Worcestershire**





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**1961**



# **BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**YEAR 1961**

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## **Mayor :**

Councillor E. J. FINCH

## **Chairman of Water and Health Committee :**

Councillor A. M. W. FORBES

## **Vice-Chairman of Water and Health Committee :**

Councillor J. R. HAMILTON

## **Water and Health Committee :**

Alderman P. W. PALMER

Alderman Mrs. D. L. LAWRENCE, C.C.

Alderman R. W. COLES

Councillor Mrs. F. S. PRITCHARD

Councillor R. FELLOWS (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor A. T. DALLOWAY

Councillor P. D. CHAPMAN

Councillor Mrs. N. C. ANSON

Councillor S. K. QUAYLE

## **Medical Officer of Health :**

Dr. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

## **Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :**

Mr. J. E. SHEEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
WATER AND HEALTH COMMITTEE  
BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1961.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

- “ A ” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “ B ” General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- “ C ” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “ D ” Housing.
- “ E ” Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “ F ” Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

## SECTION "A"

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres) .....	3,681
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1961) .....	5,120
Population (Census 1951) .....	4,756
Estimated number of inhabited houses and self-contained flats (end of 1961) .....	1,740
Rateable Value .....	£44,825
Sum represented by One Penny Rate .....	£175

Industry within the Borough is on a small scale, the area being mainly residential. The principal source of local employment is a factory processing Animal Feeding Stuffs, Seeds, Fertilisers, etc., where 85 persons were employed during 1961.

Other sources of employment, besides Agricultural, include a Saw Mill and, remaining from the traditional Bewdley industries, a Brass Foundry, Rope Works and Leather Works.

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

#### Live Births

		1961			1960		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate ....	88	39	49	80	39	41	
Illegitimate ....	4	2	2	5	3	2	
	<hr/> 92	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 85	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 43	

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Borough was: 1961, 17.9 (1960, 16.7).

The Live Birth rate for England and Wales was: 1961, 17.4 (1960, 17.1).

#### Still Births

		1961			1960		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Illegitimate ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Legitimate ...	—	—	—	2	2	—	
	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> —	

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was: 1961, 0.0 (1960, 22.9).

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales was: 1961, 19.1.

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population in the Borough was: 1961, 0.0 (1960, 0.39).

## Deaths

1961			1960		
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
67	34	33	54	31	23

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was : 1961, 13.08 (1960, 10.6).

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was : 1961, 12.0 (1960, 11.05).

## Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

## Death of Infants under 1 year

		1961		1960			
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	2	2	—	1	—	1
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2	2	—	1	—	1

The Infant Mortality rate was : 1961, 21.73 (1960, 11.76).

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales was : 1961, 21.6 (1960, 21.7).

## Causes of Death

Ref. No.		Male	Female
1, 2.	Tuberculosis	3	1
10, 13, 14.	Cancer	2	5
15.	Leukaemia	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	5
18, 19, 20, 21.	Heart Disease	15	11
23, 24.	Pneumonia/Bronchitis	3	3
26.	Ulcer	1	1
28.	Nephritis/Nephrosis	1	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1
34.	All other Accidents	1	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>34</u>	<u>33</u>

## **SECTION " B "**

### **General Provision of Health Services for the Area**

#### **Hospitals**

The following hospitals administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board are available :—

1. The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.
2. The Blakebrook Hospital.
3. The Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
4. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.
5. The Croft Maternity Home.

#### **Ambulance Service**

This is provided by the Worcestershire County Council as Local Health Authority, and is based on Kidderminster.

#### **Clinics**

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly with a doctor in attendance monthly, when diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

Separate sessions are arranged for poliomyelitis immunisation for those age groups eligible.

#### **Tuberculosis**

- (1) Treatment — A dispensary is held twice weekly at the Kidderminster General Hospital, and there is a Sanatorium at Knightwick.
- (2) Prevention and After Care — Preventive measures of this disease are the responsibility of the County Council and are carried out under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

An After-Care Sub-Committee administers this service in the district in conjunction with other districts in the Kidderminster Divisional Area.

#### **Venereal Disease**

A treatment centre is operated at the Kidderminster General Hospital by the Regional Hospital Board.

#### **Home Nursing and Health Visiting**

There are two District Nurses available in the Borough, one each for Bewdley and Wribbenhall. There is also one whole-time Health Visitor.

#### **Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948**

No action has been taken by the Council under this section during the year.



## **Domestic Help Service**

Under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority, Home Help Service has been established in the district and is administered locally by the Women's Voluntary Service. At the end of the year, 2 full-time and 15 part-time Helps were employed, who dealt with 80 patients per week. During the year a total of 130 cases, 10 of which were Maternity, of the remaining 120, 105 were chronic (help provided for more than 3 months) (99 of whom were Old Age Pensioners). The 15 other cases had help for less than three months.

## **SECTION "C"**

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area**

#### **Water Supply**

The water supply is obtained from river-side boreholes in the Blackstone area, the main source being from a 20 in. x 361 ft. bore and an electrically-driven pump delivering 60,000 gallons per hour. Stourport-on-Severn Urban District and parts of Droitwich and Kidderminster Rural District also receive water from this source.

The water is excellent in quality and, apart from the exceptional demand during prolonged dry spells, there is a constant supply for all purposes. Water samples for bacteriological analysis are taken monthly and for complete chemical analysis twice yearly.

The water is not plumbo-solvent, and no action has been necessary for any form of contamination in mains supply.

The number of houses supplied from the public water mains direct to the house is 1,688 and the population served is approximately 5,100. 31 houses are supplied from standpipes and the population served is approximately 76. Eight houses obtain water from private sources and the population served is approximately 26.

The formation of a North West Worcestershire Water Board (constituents Bewdley, Stourport, Stourbridge Water Board, Kidderminster Rural District, Tenbury Rural District, Kidderminster Borough and parts of Martley and Droitwich Rural Districts) is anticipated during the coming year.

## **Drainage and Sewerage**

No serious nuisance has occurred during the year to the drainage system in general, but a serious defect occurred at the Sewage Pumping Station, with some damage to equipment.

## **SECTION " D "**

### **Housing**

#### **New Accommodation**

No houses were built by the Corporation during the year, owing to the high rates of interest.

Eight Dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

#### **Slum Clearance**

Official Representations were submitted in regard to 6 dwellings, and 7 houses were demolished during the year. One Closing Order was revoked during the year.

#### **Rent Act, 1957**

No Certificates of Disrepair were applied for during the year.

#### **Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960**

There are now four sites authorised under the above Act.

These are at:—

- (1) The Brant Farm, Upper Blackstone.
- (2) Hursts Meadow, Northwood Lane.
- (3) Council Hill Camp, Cleobury Road.
- (4) Riverside Caravan Park, Dowles Road.

Permits now allow a combined total of 473 caravans.

New W.C. accommodation was provided at Council Hill Caravan Site and Hurst Meadow, Northwood Lane, in order to comply with the new site licences requirements.

## SECTION "E"

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

Bacteriological examinations of samples taken from producers and manufacturers, and all chemical examinations of food, milk and water are carried out by the Worcestershire County Council Laboratory. Bacteriological examinations of consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory of the Worcester Royal Infirmary, in addition to the routine clinical pathology.

#### Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning or Suspected Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

#### Meat Inspection

Meat Inspection Services and general supervision of Food Premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. (See Public Health Inspector's Report.)

## SECTION "F"

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school Children	....	....	....	84
School Children	....	....	....	16
Reinforcing Doses	....	....	....	130

#### Smallpox Vaccination

Number Vaccinated	....	....	....	67
Number Re-vaccinated	....	....	....	16

#### B.C.G. Vaccination

Number Invited	....	....	....	101
Number Accepted	....	....	....	93
Percentage Accepted	....	....	....	92%
B.C.G. Negative	....	....	....	92
Positive	....	....	....	1
Number Absent	....	....	....	—
Percentage Positive	....	....	....	1

#### Poliomyelitis

Immunisation continues for children and adults.

#### Notifications

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths Total
Scarlet Fever	12	—	—
Measles	195	—	—
Whooping Cough	14	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—

## Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		1			2	1		
		1			3			

A total number of 34 T.B. cases on the Borough Register at December 31st, 1961, were as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
18	13	—	3

## Mass Radiography Service

A two-day visit was made to the town in April by the Mobile Radiography Unit of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. There was a good response by the public of Bewdley and surrounding areas.

## CONCLUSION

The Public Health Services within the Borough are generally satisfactory.

It is most unfortunate that the Council's plans to build further houses on the Springhill Estate have been postponed, apparently indefinitely, on financial grounds. However, the need for houses does not get less, and building costs increase steadily.

I should like to thank the Mayor, members of the Council, and the Council's Staff, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health

# **PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

**Year 1961**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

## **HOUSING**

As reported by the Medical Officer of Health, Official Representations were made in regard to 6 Sub-standard dwellings within the Borough. Closing Orders were confirmed on two dwellings and seven dwellings were demolished.

Details of housing inspections are contained in the summary of work of the department.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

There are 81 food shops and other food-preparing premises within the district. Whilst the majority of these premises are retail food shops, the total includes school canteens, hotels, etc., but excludes agricultural properties. All premises were visited at least once during the year and others more frequently as required.

### **Meat Inspection**

Four Slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year. Three Slaughterhouses were re-licensed in July, though only two remain in regular use.

A total number of 228 visits made to food premises during the year included 122 visits made to slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes. These inspections are carried out at the time of slaughtering whenever possible or as soon as practicable afterwards.



## Slaughterhouses Report

Work proceeded satisfactorily on Slaughterhouse modifications in compliance with requirements of the above report.

The table set out below indicates the number of carcasses inspected as against the number slaughtered.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ....	96	Nil	27	1,777	371
Number inspected ....	60	Nil	15	862	199
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ....	12	Nil	1	18	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ....	20	Nil	6.6	2.0	5
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ....	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tubercu- losis ....	6.6	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.5

### Condemned Food

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouses during the year amounted to 3 cwt. 1 qtr. 12 lb. Other miscellaneous foods (mainly canned goods) condemned and surrendered as unfit for food amounted to 1 qtr. 2 lb. 7½ oz.

Method of disposal of condemned food is by incineration, except in the case of meat and offal at slaughterhouses. This is stained green, as recommended, and collection made by authorised dealers.

# Factories Acts 1937 to 1959

## Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

### Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	3	14	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	22	25	4	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ....	25	39	4	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	—	—	—	—	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	—	—	—	—	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	—	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ....	—	—	—	—	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ....	2	2	—	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	1	1	—	1	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork ....	1	1	—	—	Nil
Total ....	4	4	—	2	Nil

### Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949-1953

Forty-seven samples of milk, heat treated within the Borough, were taken by the Food and Drugs Authority (Worcestershire County Council) during the year. Analysis results were all satisfactory except for three Methylene Blue Tests, which were void, and 1 Biological Test T.B. and B.A. Neg.

Note—Methylene Blue Test void when shade temperature exceeds 65° F.



## Ice-Cream

Twenty-four retailers are registered for the sale of Ice-cream, many of whom deal only in pre-packed products.

## RODENT CONTROL

During the year the following infestations have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

Corporation Property (excluding dwelling houses)	....	....	....	8
Private Dwellings	....	....	....	86
Business Premises	....	....	....	55
Agricultural, etc.	....	....	....	1
Total	....	....	....	<hr/> 150 <hr/>

These figures are taken from the annual return as required by the Ministry and do not indicate the actual number of treatments carried out. The Corporation tip, for example, requires fortnightly attention at least, but is shown only once in this return.

## Sewers

Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year in accordance with Ministry requirements.

15 manholes were prebaited in the Bewdley area and 15 in Wribbenhall. All points were revisited and 3 “takes” and 27 “no takes” were recorded.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

In addition to house refuse, trade refuse is collected and disposed of by controlled tipping at a site approximately  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the town centre.

A limited amount of trade refuse is retained for salvage (cartons, containers, etc.), and a total quantity of 9 tons 0 cwt. 2 qtrs. was collected and sold during the year.

## SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT

A total number of 1,310 visits were distributed as follows:—

Housing defects, overcrowding, etc.	....	....	....	173
Houses let-in-lodgings	....	....	....	11
Corporation Property (defects, etc.)	....	....	....	222
Infectious Disease	....	....	....	9
Factories (Part I only)	....	....	....	39
Food Premises (including meat inspections)	...	....		228
Water supply	....	....	....	29
Rodent and other Pest Control (excluding operator's visits)	...	....	....	25
Caravan sites	....	....	....	46
Drainage works	....	....	....	140
Refuse complaints, Corporation Tip, etc.	....	....		19
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	219
				<hr/>
				1,160
Rodent treatments	....	....	....	150
				<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	1,310
				<hr/>

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES E. SHEEN,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector



